

From: [Amie Ashton](#)
To: [Architectural Review Board](#)
Cc: jgalbraith@thehayesgroup.com
Subject: More Housing at Town & Country - Thank You!
Date: Friday, December 8, 2023 9:27:38 AM

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Hello Architectural Review Board Members,

First of all, thank you for serving our city. I know it is a labor of love and all you do your very best up on the dias. It is appreciated!

I saw the article in today's Daily Post and had to thank you for your calling out the very obvious - **we need more housing near transit and services in this town!**

We have a housing crisis, climate crisis, and health/mental health crisis.....our local businesses are struggling and our schools are experiencing dangerously low enrollment (no one wants to talk about looming closures). **Dense housing near jobs, services, retail, and transit, such as previous (non-downgraded) Town & Country proposal serves all of us and makes our community stronger.**

I am Chair of the Board of Directors at the Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition and Executive Director at Palo Alto Forward. I cannot tell you the number of young people, workers, and seniors who want to live in a 15-minute city where everything is walkable and easy to access. We need more and bigger proposals near retail centers like Town & Country! They need more customers and the supposed protection of a viewshed from a parking lot seems callous and misguided in today's business climate.

I live about 1 mile from Town & Country Village and shop there at least once per week -- and always walking or with my bike/trailer. You want a lot more of me in this city, but it only works if you put housing near shopping, jobs, and transit.

Thank you for calling out the very obvious, high-density housing is not inherently bad and we very much NEED it.

Amie Ashton
236 Middlefield Road

From: [Palo Alto Forward](#)
To: [Architectural Review Board](#)
Cc: [Kate Conley](#); [Gerhardt, Jodie](#)
Subject: ARB Agenda Item #2 - 824 San Antonio
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:47:21 AM
Attachments: [824 San Antonio Support Ltr \(12.20.24\).docx.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Please see the attached support letter for 824 San Antonio Road, ARB Item #2 on the 12/21 agenda.

Thank you,

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Amie Ashton
Executive Director, Palo Alto Forward
650-793-1585



December 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Agenda Item #2 - 824 San Antonio Road, Senior Housing Project

Dear Architectural Review Board Members,

We write in support of the senior housing project at 824 San Antonio Road. This exciting project will provide desperately needed senior housing. The exceptions to our current design standards should be granted given the narrow lot width and commercial nature of surrounding properties. We firmly believe great architecture and beautiful projects still can happen with use of design exceptions, especially under your review and comment.

The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center is nearby, with its many amenities and services. Further, the San Antonio area is transforming as part of our Housing Element, especially with its recent designation as a designated Priority Development Area. We look forward to seeing it become a walkable, bikeable, mixed-use area for residents of this project.

Our aging population is growing quickly. We are in need of more varied senior housing options. Additionally, older adults are the fastest-growing age group of those experiencing homelessness, composing nearly half of the homeless population. We desperately need the type of housing being proposed, which includes four below market rate units.

Please grant the exceptions requested and move this project forward as quickly as possible. Allow our city to demonstrate its commitment to facilitating housing through the Housing Incentive Program, which is a major pillar of our Draft Housing Element (currently being revised for resubmittal to the State Department of Housing and Community Development).

Thank you for your service to our community!

Sincerely,

Amie Ashton
Executive Director, and on behalf of the Board of Palo Alto Forward